

REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 47, 56, 65, 69, 70, 72, 78, 80, 81, and 83 have been amended and claims 86-98 have been added. No new matter has been added by these amendments as these claims have been amended or added to incorporate limitations previously presented in other claims. Accordingly, claims 47, 56, 59, and 64-98 are currently under examination in the present application. For the reasons set forth below, Applicants submit that the present amendments and arguments place this application in condition for immediate allowance.

As an initial matter, it is noted that the Examiner considered the subject matter of the claims to be allowable upon overcoming certain minor objections under Section 112, and the indication of allowability is acknowledged with appreciation. As set forth below, the present amendments overcome these minor objections and will place this application in condition for immediate allowance.

In particular, in the Office Action of November 20, 2008, the Examiner objected to claims 69 and 70 as being in improper form for a multiple dependent claim. This rejection has now been rendered moot by virtue of the present amendments to claims 69 and 70 which make these claims singly dependent. More specifically, the reference to claim 68 has been removed from these claims and the corresponding limitations from claim 68 regarding the terms such as Ra, Rb, Rc, Rd, Re, etc., have been incorporated as appropriate into claims 69 and 70. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner's objection to claims 69 and 70 is overcome and should be withdrawn.

In the Office Action, the Examiner then rejected claims 47, 56, 65, 72, 78, 80, 81, and 83 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite. In particular, the Examiner has asserted that the use of the term “optionally” renders these claims indefinite as the term is used in the sense of “such as” or “for example.” For the reasons set forth below, Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, insofar as applied to the claims as amended, and request that it be withdrawn.

By virtue of the present amendments, claims 47, 56, 65, 72, 78, 80, 81, and 83 have been amended to remove the term “optionally,” as well as the language following these terms, from the claims. The particular language following the term “optionally” in each of these claims has been included in new claims 86-98 in appropriate dependent form and, accordingly, should be found allowable as the Examiner has indicated the base claim would be allowable once the 35 U.S.C. §112 issues had been resolved. Accordingly, Applicants thus submit that the Examiner rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, insofar as applied to the claims as amended, is respectfully traversed and should be withdrawn.

In light of the amendments and arguments provided herewith, Applicants submit that the present application overcomes all prior rejections and objections, and has been placed in condition for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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